

REMARKS

By this Response, Applicants have canceled claims 58 and 60 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended claims 48, 59, 61, and 62. No new matter has been added. Claims 48, 49, 51-57, 59, and 61-94 are present in the application. Of those claims, claims 67-94 have been withdrawn from further consideration on the merits as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Thus, claims 48, 49, 51-57, 59, and 61-66 are pending on the merits in the present application.

For at least the reasons outlined in more detail below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection included in the Office Action of March 12, 2010.

I. Statement of the Substance of the Interview Conducted October 27, 2010

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank Examiner To for the courtesy and consideration extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone interview conducted on October 27, 2010. Regarding the substance of the interview, at least some of the issues outlined below were discussed during the interview.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Wilson and Frey

In the Office Action, claims 48, 49, 51-59, and 62-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. US 2003/0058118 to Wilson ("Wilson") in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,749,984 to Frey et al. ("Frey"). Office Action at 2. Claims 48 and 62 are the only independent claims included in this claim rejection. Although Applicants continue to believe that this claim rejection is improper for at least the reasons outlined in the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed September 13, 2010, and the Response to Final Office Action filed December 17, 2009,

Applicants have amended independent claims 48 and 62 to incorporate subject matter previously recited in claims 58 and 60 into independent claims 48 and 62, to *further* distinguish them from Wilson and Frey in an effort to promote an expedited issuance of a Notice of Allowance for the present application.

Applicants note that the Office Action mailed March 12, 2010, indicated that the subject matter recited in claim 60, which depends from claims 48 and 58, is allowable. Office Action at 6. This indication of allowable subject matter was repeated during the telephone interview conducted on October 27, 2010. Thus, claims 48 and 62, which have been amended herein to include the subject matter previously recited in claims 58 and 60, should be allowable.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of independent claims 48 and 62 based on Wilson and Frey. Further, claims 49, 51-57, 59, and 61 depend from claim 48, and claims 63-66 depend from claim 62. Thus, claims 49, 51-57, 59, 61, and 63-66 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as the corresponding one of independent claims 48 and 62. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 49, 51-57, 59, 61, and 63-66 based on Wilson and Frey.

III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, independent claims 48 and 62 should be allowable. Dependent claims 49, 51-57, 59, 61, and 63-66 depend from a corresponding one of allowable independent claims 48 and 62. For at least this reason, those dependent claims should also be allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the claim rejection, and allowance of pending claims 48, 49, 51-57, 59, and 61-66.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 653-6559.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action contains a number of assertions concerning the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants respectfully decline to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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